

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 1120
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
Phone: (502) 582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277
E-mail: nass-ky@nass.usda.gov
and the
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Richie Farmer, Commissioner
Published twice monthly

Volume No. 23 Issue No. 3

Released: February 2, 2004

FEATURING:

- ▶ Agricultural Prices
- ▶ Annual Layers & Eggs
- ▶ Chicken & Eggs
- ▶ Milk Production
- ▶ Cold Storage
- ▶ Apples & Peaches

KENTUCKY CROP PRICES REMAIN STRONG WHILE LIVESTOCK MIXED

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were up for crops and barrows and gilts while down for cattle and calves.

Prices received for cattle and calves were down from December. **Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over for mid-January averaged \$83.00 per cwt., down \$5.00 from the December price while up \$9.00 from January 2003. **Beef cows** averaged \$46.00 per cwt. This was down \$1.00 from December while up \$14.00 from January a year earlier. **Calves** under 500 lbs. averaged \$98.00 per cwt. at mid-month, down \$1.00 from December while up \$14.00 from January 2003.

Prices received for hogs were mixed. **Barrows and gilts** for mid-January averaged \$36.00 per cwt., up \$2.00 from December and \$4.00 from January a year ago. **Sows** at \$28.00 per cwt. were unchanged from the previous month and up \$6.00 from January 2003.

The price of **all milk** for mid-January was \$14.00 per cwt., down \$1.40 from a month earlier while up \$1.20 from January a year ago. **Milk cow** price for mid-January was \$1,310.00 per head. This was down \$50.00 from the October price and \$40.00 from January 2003.

Prices for corn, soybeans and winter wheat continue to increase. The **corn** price for mid-January was \$2.65 per bushel, up 21 cents from the December price and 10 cents from January 2003. The **soybean** price for mid-month was \$8.15 per bushel, an increase of 90 cents from the previous month's price and \$2.38 from a year earlier. This would be the highest price since June 1997. The mid-month price of **winter wheat** was \$3.90 per bushel, up 59 cents from December and 41 cents from January the previous year. This would be the highest winter wheat price since October 1996.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 111, based on 1990-92=100, was 2 points (1.8 percent) below the December Index. The Livestock Products Index was down 5 points (4.5 percent) from December while the All Crops Index was unchanged. Lower prices received for cattle, lettuce, milk, and tomatoes more than offset higher commodity prices for broilers, soybeans, corn, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, grapes, tobacco, and cottonseed.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 11 points (11 percent) from January 2003. The Food Commodities Index, at 112, was 3 points (2.6 percent) below last month but 14 points (14 percent) above January 2003.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

(Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		JAN	DEC	JAN	JAN
		2003	2003	2004	2004
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn <u>b/ c/</u>	Bu.	2.55	2.44	2.65	2.46
Soybeans <u>b/</u>	Bu.	5.77	7.25	8.15	7.82
Winter Wheat <u>b/</u>	Bu.	3.49	3.31	3.90	3.70
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	100.00	110.00	100.00	83.60
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	58.00	64.00	58.00	71.40
All Hogs	Cwt.	31.60	33.80	35.70	35.70
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	32.00	34.00	36.00	36.10
Sows	Cwt.	22.00	28.00	28.00	28.80
All Beef Cattle <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	63.90	78.20	74.10	77.40
Steers & Heifers <u>e/</u>	Cwt.	74.00	88.00	83.00	81.20
Cows	Cwt.	32.00	47.00	46.00	45.80
Calves <u>f/</u>	Cwt.	84.00	99.00	98.00	105.00
Milk Cows <u>g/</u>	Ea.	1,350.00	-	1,310.00	1,390.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	12.80	15.40	14.00	13.10
Hog-Corn Ratios <u>h/</u>	Bu.	12.4	14.0	13.5	14.5

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Published only in Jan., Apr., July & Oct. h/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION

Kentucky egg production during the year ending November 30, 2003 was 1,122 million eggs, compared with 940 million during 2002. An average of 4.7 million layers were on Kentucky operations during 2003, up 16 percent from the 2002 average. Each layer produced an average of 241 eggs during 2003, compared with last year's average of 234.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 2003 totaled a record high 87.2 billion eggs, up slightly from 2002. Layer numbers during 2003 averaged 335 million, down 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2003 was 259 eggs, up one percent from the 2002 average of 257.

DECEMBER 2003 UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Dec. 2002	Dec. 2003	Dec. 03 % of Dec. 02
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,451	7,531	101
Average Layers (000)	340,316	338,525	99
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,189	2,225	102
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Jan 1 (000)	30,117	31,655	105
Chicks Hatched (000)	31,973	33,856	106
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Jan 1 (000)	623,171	637,048	102
Chicks Hatched (000)	753,875	778,159	103

MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for December 2003 totaled 122 million pounds, down 5 percent from a year earlier, but up 5 percent from November. Average number of cows on farms at 112,000 head, was down 8,000 from last year, and unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,085 pounds, up 10 pounds from December 2002 and up 50 pounds from November 2003.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during December totaled 12.3 billion pounds, down 0.3 percent from

December 2002. November revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was down 0.1 percent from November 2002. The November revision represented an increase of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,589 pounds for December, 14 pounds above December 2002. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 93,000 head less than December 2002, but unchanged from November 2003.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on December 31, 2003, were greater than year earlier levels for pork bellies, in-shell nuts and frozen eggs.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks				Dec 03 as % of	
Commodity	Dec 31, 2002	Nov 30, 2003	Dec 31, 2003	Dec 2002	Nov 2003
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	768,084	569,268	609,046	79	107
Turkey	333,047	350,668	353,267	106	101
Ducks	6,398	1,831	1,188	19	65
Total Frozen Poultry	1,107,529	921,767	963,501	87	105
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	524,641	373,770	395,894	75	106
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	28,254	33,073	49,017	173	148
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	468,501	438,940	470,701	100	107
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	1,011,471	828,066	879,813	87	106

1/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 2/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

APPLES AND PEACHES

Utilized production of **commercial apples** in **Kentucky** totaled 5.70 million pounds in 2003, up 43 percent from 2002. Prices averaged a record high 32.6 cents per pound. The previous record high price was 31.8 cents per pound in 2002. The value of utilized production totaled \$1.86 million, up from the \$1.27 million in 2002. Producers across Kentucky experienced increased apple production. The larger apple crop resulted from good growing conditions across the State, plentiful rain and absence of a late freeze this past spring. Producers continue to remove old trees in operating orchards while old orchards continue to go out of business. Some producers planted new trees to replace older trees.

U.S. utilized apple production for 2003 was estimated at 8.90 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the 2002 level. Utilized production for Michigan and New York increased 86 percent and 84 percent, respectively, while Washington's utilized production decreased 12 percent compared to the 2002 crop. In Washington, poor weather during pollination led to spotty bloom in some orchards. In

Michigan and New York, excellent growing conditions allowed production to rebound from the short 2002 crop. Improved growing conditions in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia increased utilized production from the 2002 weather reduced crops.

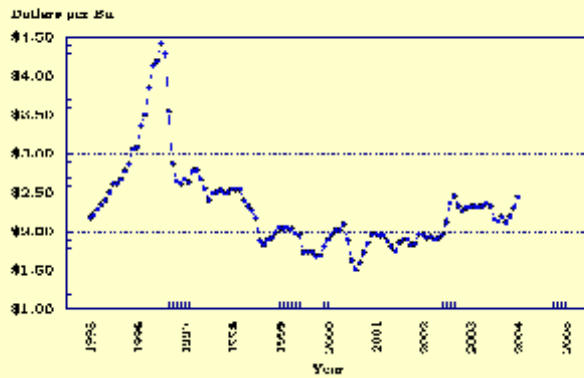
Kentucky's utilized **peach** production totaled 1.80 million pounds in 2003, up 50 percent from the 2002 crop. Prices averaged 55.7 cents per pound, up 1.2 cents from 2002 but below the record high 62.3 cents per pound of 1996. Value of all utilized 2003 production totaled \$1.00 million compared to \$654,000 in 2002. Good growing conditions combined with plentiful soil moisture and absence of a late freeze produced a good peach crop.

U.S. utilized peach production in 2003 was estimated at 2.41 billion pounds, 2 percent below the previous year but 3 percent above 2001. The California crop, accounting for 75 percent of the U.S. utilized peach production, was down 3 percent from 2002. For California, the Clingstone peach estimate was down 6 percent but the Freestone estimate was virtually unchanged from 2002.

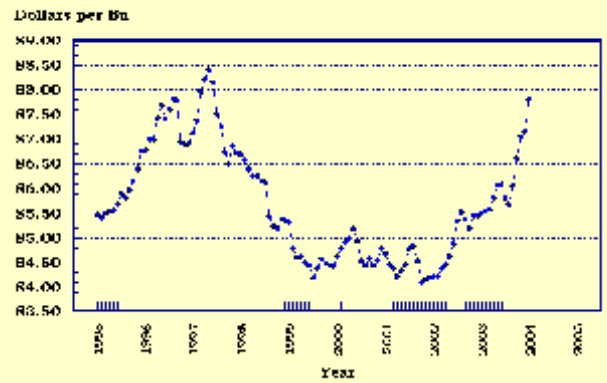
APPLE AND PEACH UTILIZED PRODUCTION, PRICE AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

STATE	Utilized Production			Price Per Pound			Value of Utilized Production		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Million Pounds			Cents			1,000 Dollars			
APPLES - COMMERCIAL CROP									
Illinois	40.6	35.3	45.9	23.7	35.9	27.5	9,613	12,678	12,606
Indiana	46.0	36.0	46.0	18.5	26.5	20.1	8,521	9,528	9,254
KENTUCKY	7.0	4.0	5.7	29.0	31.8	32.6	2,030	1,272	1,860
Missouri	41.0	36.0	40.0	17.1	17.8	20.8	7,017	6,396	8,310
Ohio	84.0	70.0	93.0	23.6	26.8	27.3	19,831	18,750	25,344
Tennessee	6.5	5.4	10.5	23.5	26.0	24.9	1,527	1,402	2,613
Virginia	306.0	247.0	288.0	10.6	10.4	12.6	32,541	25,756	36,380
W. Virginia	95.0	92.0	90.0	8.5	8.5	9.0	8,120	7,821	8,100
U.S.	9,214.4	8,375.0	8,897.5	15.8	18.8	19.4	1,453,073	1,572,202	1,729,949
PEACHES - COMMERCIAL CROP									
Illinois	17.1	16.5	19.8	42.0	47.0	51.2	7,182	7,755	10,138
Indiana	2.9	3.0	3.3	58.3	73.3	71.6	1,691	2,199	2,363
KENTUCKY	1.8	1.2	1.8	48.7	54.5	55.7	877	654	1,003
Missouri	9.0	8.0	10.0	36.5	42.0	62.0	3,285	3,360	6,200
Ohio	11.0	9.1	11.0	49.0	49.6	49.8	5,390	4,514	5,478
Tennessee	3.5	3.7	3.2	48.4	47.0	51.4	1,694	1,739	1,645
Virginia	7.0	6.7	9.2	31.7	41.0	37.8	2,219	2,747	3,478
W. Virginia	10.7	10.0	11.8	30.0	31.0	37.0	3,210	3,100	4,366
U.S.	2,334.9	2,471.5	2,413.8	21.1	20.4	19.3	493,298	503,827	466,681

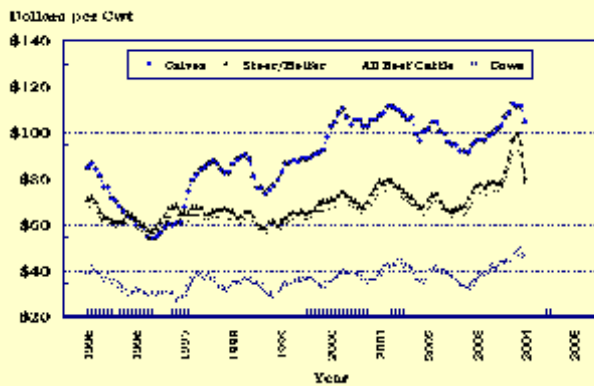
Prices Received, Corn, US



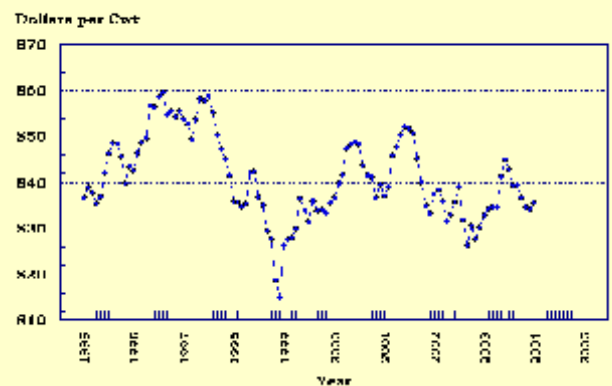
Prices Received, Soybeans, US



Prices Received, Cattle, US



Prices Received, Hogs, US



Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>